

THE EVENING STAR,
With Sunday Morning Edition.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
SATURDAY, January 15, 1921
THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor
The Evening Star Newspaper Company
Business Office, 11th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.
New York Office: Tribune Building.
Chicago Office: First National Bank Building.
San Francisco Office: 384 Market St., London, England.
The Evening Star, with the Sunday morning edition, is delivered by carriers within the city at 50 cents per month; outside the city at 60 cents per month. Single copies 5 cents. It may be sent by mail, or telephone order. Collectors in the city are made by carriers at the end of each month.
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The Bonus.
It must be believed that the House in consenting to the elimination from the legislative appropriation of the provision for all forms of bonus to the government employees did so in confident expectation that the Senate would restore the item and that it would be retained in the bill to the end. Otherwise the House would put itself in a most difficult position, of denying the government employees that which they urgently need to maintain themselves on their present meager basic salaries.

This bonus was granted during the war period as an extra compensation to meet the higher cost of living. It was at first \$120 a year, which was wholly inadequate as a measure of the added expense of the average family. It was then increased to \$240. Now prices are falling somewhat, but the net cost of living is still not much lower than it was a year ago. Some commodities are less in price, but others are still high and practically all the necessities are costing far more—sometimes twice as much—as before the war. Thus the necessity for the bonus remains as urgent as ever.

If this bonus should be canceled the situation would then be as it was before the war, with the government pay scale one of the lowest in the country and, as regards the medium grade employees, wholly out of proportion to the service rendered. If the bonus was made part of the permanent pay scale, if, in short, the whole range were definitely and fixedly increased by \$240 a year, the rate would not be high enough.

Yesterday's action was the result of one member's unsuccessful effort to have the policemen and firemen of the District given the benefit of the \$240 bonus. Unsuccessful in that venture, he made a point of order against the entire bonus plan which was effective in causing the cancellation of every form of extra payment.

As long as this payment is maintained as "additional compensation," it should not be subject to a point of order. It is cruel to cause such apprehension on the part of the government workers as that which was aroused by yesterday's action. To practically all of the government employees who are within the range of the bonus, this additional \$240 a month is an item of the most vital consequence, and the prospect of losing it is a distressing one that should not be imposed by Congress suddenly or whimsically.

The Naval Balloon Inquiry.
The mandate of the naval court of inquiry named to investigate the recent balloon flight from Rockaway Beach is broad enough to cover all aspects of the case, and to elicit its points of chief importance, which have been somewhat obscured by the dramatic circumstances of the aviator's return and their exhibition of "temperament" on their way back to base. The first item of the court's instructions covers the "purpose of, plan and intention, and authorization for said flight." That will get to the precise point concerning which there has been much mystification. It has been intimated that perhaps these balloons took the flight on their own account as a little expedition in adventure. Certainly their lack of provisions indicated an intention to go but a short distance. It has been suggested, furthermore, that whether the flight was official or otherwise there was not adequate consultation with the meteorological service to ascertain the present and prospective weather conditions. As the case stands the net damage done is in the loss of the balloon. The aviators have returned safely and the country has had a thrill and somewhat of a shock in the ebullition of feeling that developed on their way home. Now let us have the full story.

More than half the population of the country lives in the cities and towns. The social inclination of the human being has its share of responsibility in the housing problem.

King Constantine would at least like to get comfortably settled on his throne before considering a proposition to abdicate.

A Tribute to American Jails.
M. Schwartz, a San Francisco socialist, recently released from prison in Moscow, says in an interview given in Berlin:

"Goldman told me in Russia that she would rather be in jail in the United States than free in Soviet Russia. My wife and I had known her in America. We found her and Alexander Berkman in a hotel. Emma was cooking her dinner and asked us to eat with her. She produced some American canned food from her trunk with pride and said she still had a few more. She was wearing a sword. I asked him what he was doing with that on, and he explained that he was traveling about Russia with a crowd of propagandists."

The two worthies seem not to be in agreement. While Miss Goldman is declaiming against Soviet Russia and giving preference to a jail in America, her friend Berkman, accused her as a soldier, sword at side, is spreading Soviet propaganda. But it may be all in the play. It is not easy to fathom professional agitators of their type.

persons did not seek the Soviet paradise. They were fired into it. They did not want to go. They had been advised by press reports of what was taking place in Russia—that capitalism had been overthrown and the proletariat, so-called, enthroned—but still they were lingering in capitalistic America. And they would have continued to linger if the authorities had not banded them off, with others of their kind.

When sovietism in Russia collapses, what will become of Miss Goldman and her friend? America will never again be open to them. Even American jails will be closed to them. They will be obliged to find their meat and drink elsewhere, and territory where such persons are welcome is narrowing.

The Tariff and the Democracy.
Who will lead the democracy in the next House on the tariff question? Champ Clark, excellently qualified for the service, will not be present. Mr. Kitchin, also excellently qualified, is not in the best of health and must spare himself.

These two men are democrats of the old tariff school. They abhor protection, and would, if they could, cut it out entirely from the country's tariff policy. Mr. Clark, indeed, is a frank free trader.

But the democrats in revising the tariff have never enacted a free trade measure. They have always found it necessary to dilute their theory with a modicum of protection. The Wilson-Gorman tariff law carried protective duties, placed there by Mr. Gorman, which was almost as much of a protectionist as Mr. Aldrich, who sat on the other side of the Senate chamber.

The Underwood measure, now on the books and awaiting revision, carries protective duties. Had it been fashioned strictly on the lines of a tariff for revenue only it could not have passed, although the democrats had a substantial majority on Capitol Hill, and a democrat was sitting in the White House.

It seems to be true that protection to be beneficially protective must be applied by those who believe in the policy. Where its enemies apply it, simply as a temporary expedient, it fails. The Wilson-Gorman law failed, and the Underwood law has never given satisfaction. The Dingley law, on the other hand, which was consistently and logically protective, was a most gratifying success.

Mr. Harding as Listener.
Mr. Harding must be a good listener. His visitors all remark on his cordial greeting. They make it plain that he gives attention and hears a man through.

An excellent quality in anybody, but particularly excellent in a politician. The office-seeker or the office-holder who hurries along a line of voters or a line of callers, with his brow creased, a weary expression on his face, dropping but a word as he passes, makes a mistake. The voters or the callers feel snubbed, and improve the first opportunity to resent the snub.

Mr. Harding must have had his talent thoroughly tested the past two months. He has had many callers, and heard discussed a variety of subjects. "Many men of many minds." Present by invitation, they have felt justified in "opening up" as the spirit moved them.

How much of all this has influenced Mr. Harding time alone can tell. He is coming to the White House with a vast fund of information, and will need it all. He must take position on many subjects, and choose many men to serve the public.

He will be entering on four strenuous years. Let us all hope he is fit when he begins, and keeps fit. The people have expressed great confidence in him. Their affairs are in a way and measure muddled, and they want them put, and kept, in the right shape. And Mr. Harding, we may all be sure, wants to give the best that is in him.

It has been frequently asserted that ignorance is bliss. It must be admitted that none of the knowledge developed by investigation has been fraught with any great mental comfort.

John Barleycorn is claiming privileges on the sea that is likely to tempt some of his devotees to become permanently nautical in habit.

Traffic regulations may yet enable the "jaywalker" to come to some kind of an amicable relationship with the "jay driver."

The bolshevik movement has about exhausted its intellectual ammunition. It has been reduced to a collection of exploded theories.

No gentleman who regards a public office as in any degree a sinecure can be considered eligible to a cabinet appointment.

Tradition and Reform.
When Gov. Nathan Miller the other day upon assuming his new office addressed the New York legislature in terms of economy through the consolidation of state bureaus and departments there was a general expression of approval, from his political opponents as well as from his partisans. A state executive has seldom taken the chair with louder chorus of praise for his proclamation of purposes. But there is a discordant note, and it comes from one of the governor's own party colleagues. The secretary of state announces that he will have to be shown precisely the economical reasons for taking from his office the issuance of automobile licenses and putting that bureau under a new department of taxes and revenues. The chief function of the secretary of state, he says, is the administration of automobile laws and the collection of automobile taxes, and if there is to be a change "there will be a fighting Irishman on Capitol Hill."

Thus it is everywhere. What has been must continue to be. It matters not that there is no clear connection between the office of secretary of state and the granting of

motor licenses, or that that officer has jurisdiction over no other form of taxes. Once upon a time, long ago when motoring was a novelty, the secretary of state was charged with the duty of issuing licenses, because there was no other branch of the state government to attend to this work. As the industry grew and the public use multiplied the practice was continued, until, as the incumbent says, the supervision over motor car matters is the chief function of the secretary.

This gives point to an anecdote recently revived. During the reign of George II a serious riot occurred at Drury Lane Theater, in London, and as a precaution against a recurrence a guard of soldiers was stationed outside the doors at every performance. Time passed and there were no more riots, and the soldiers continued to go daily to the post and stand guard. Nobody thought to change the order and to this day men in uniform stand at the doors of the theater. The same thing happened in the Tower of London, where several centuries ago a prisoner escaped through a previously unguarded door. A sentry was stationed there to prevent any more such escapes, and unless the order was canceled during the war one is standing there to this day, though no prisoners were, until the great war broke, confined in that building for many, many years.

Just because a thing has been done a long time does not justify its continuance, if a good reason develops for a change, or if the original reason for its establishment has passed. Gov. Miller may have to wrestle with this conservative clinging to a prerogative, even though he runs up against a "fighting Irishman."

Society and Pugilism.
Society is going in for boxing in New York. Last night at Madison Square Garden many of the special seats around the ringside at a championship match were occupied by women high in metropolitan circles. They appeared to be very much entertained, and at the conclusion of the performance one of them, whose position in society is so secure that she is in perpetual possession of perhaps the highest social title in America, declared that she was "just crazy about boxing." It was she who had promoted this spectacle for the benefit of the war sufferers of France.

This may be the beginning of a new fad. Drawing room boxing matches may become the fashion. Perhaps leading young men who have heretofore been chiefly notable for their dancing abilities will take up refined pugilism as an accomplishment and give exhibitions for the benefit of their friends and their own gratification. There is no telling how far a fancy for such a thing will go. Who can say? May not even the fair sex put on gloves? Stranger things have happened.

Mr. Coolidge has endorsed Mr. Harding's choice of a simple inaugural, hoping, no doubt, that the teamwork will be equally easy and satisfactory during the entire administration.

An inauguration would be much more elaborate if it could be arranged without consultation with the incoming President, as some sort of a surprise.

Abandonment of the performance in the main inauguration will not prevent numerous side-shows sponsored from courageous plans to sustain the gayety.

A volunteer advisory committee is always sure to be exceedingly large in its membership list.

The selection of a Secretary of Labor is one of the most laborious problems now in hand.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Frozen Bloom.
The Ice King is an epicure. A dainty morsel to obtain. He let the bud feel safe and sure 'Mid January sun and rain.

And then he turned upon the trees, About to smile in tender bloom. And sent a blast to make them freeze Beneath a sky of winter gloom.

"A dainty dish," he cried, "is this. So let us banquet and be gay! My fine confection do not miss Which I have named a 'June glaze'."

"Political promises," remarked Senator Sorghum, "remind me of the three wishes a fairy grants in the story books. There's always a 'ketch' in 'em somewhere."

Near Demi-Gods.
"Aren't most of these 'master minds' they exploit in the underworld only myths?"

"Yes," replied Bill the Burg. "They're what you might call jimmy gods."

Slippery Sport.
When ice upon the street annoyed The walker slow and wary He said, "When skating is enjoyed, It must be voluntary."

Mathematical Marvels.
"How do you measure the distance between the stars?" asked the simple citizen.

"By a simple process," replied the scientist, "which gives us results that are, of course, approximate. But we don't get out of the way more than a few billion miles."

"I'm glad your mentality is astronomical and not financial. I'd hate to have you figuring an estimate for which the taxpayers are called upon to provide the funds."

Limited Conveyance.
"Are there any bootleggers in Crim-Gulch?"

"No," answered Cactus Joe. "Crim-Gulch is a law-abidin' community, and anyhow a bootleg wouldn't hold enough to keep a dealer from makin' himself merely 'disappointin' and unpopular."

Editorial Digest

The Pen vs. the Sword.

Has it come about, as the Ohio State Journal (Columbus, republican) suggests, that in the movement toward disarmament the newspapers of the world have "outdistanced statesmen and governmental experts in showing the way to increase the chances for world peace?" The New York World's aggressive campaign for disarmament is a policy that has been followed by the newspapers in England, and is echoed to some extent by the American journals which support the World are making effective use of this expression of opinion in the effort to translate popular sentiment into governmental action.

"Public sentiment against building additional warships" the Buffalo Courier (Buffalo, independent) finds "reflected all over the world" and "British newspapers are unanimously clamoring for a cessation of naval construction." This "newspaper outcry in England against competition with the United States in battleship building" demonstrates the influence of the American (republican) "that at least a section of the British people is opposed to any policy that would lead to that country into any sort of technical hostility to the United States." When the London Post, "the most reactionary organ in Great Britain" according to the Flint (Mich.) Journal (independent), makes the statement that "America can afford to build the greatest navy, while Great Britain pooh-poohs the task of a reduction or limitation in naval armament something to think about."

The proposal of the London Post for curtailing armament "by agreement between England, Japan and the United States" is "in the opinion of the New York Globe (independent), which 'wonders if Lloyd George will agree.' According to the Chicago Post (independent), Lloyd George has already 'taken cut in his order of a '50 per cent' and his order of a '50 per cent' progressive answer to the challenging resolution of Senator Borah."

The endorsement of the World's campaign for a naval holiday by Lord Northcliffe, and his place in the subject "with friendly frankness, in an atmosphere of complete good faith, with all the cards on the table," "encouraging," says the Birmingham Age-Herald (democratic), for "if the world is ever to discuss disarmament must be set by Great Britain and the United States." And when Northcliffe says further that the agitation for disarmament is "the Kansas City Times (independent) suggests that 'everybody recognizes that when Lord Northcliffe speaks his words are just as weighty as though they came from Downing Street.'"

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (republican) sees no reason "for assuming that Japan would not welcome an opportunity to cut down naval expenditures as eagerly as any other nation," and "the 'more the subject is talked the plainer it appears' that the project is 'now talking on an air of reality.'"

Such being the disposition of the three nations concerned in the movement, "whether officially or unofficially expressed," the Springfield Union (republican) feels that "disarmament should encounter no serious opposition in an effort of these countries through their governments to agree upon such a policy." It remains only for the United States to take the initial step, since, according to the Norfolk (Neb.) News (independent), "our government can determine the armament policy of all three powers."

Those Blonde Women.

The passage of the Volstead act having failed to introduce the millennium, our moral protectors are constrained to find other explanations for the continuing depravity of these times. Satan was always an expert in disguises; he could change himself into a little black dog, or a big black cat, or a gentleman in red doublet and hose. No wonder the moralists are unable to decide which of his manifestations is still responsible for the existence of evil in human life. Perhaps it is Satan's decoration or the movie menace; perhaps, as a promoter's wife suggests to the Wellesley News, it is jazz music; and perhaps, in an optimistic suggestion to his fellows in convention, it is ultra-violet rays.

We are much impressed by this last theory. "Do you want to make Chicago safe for husbands?" asks the optimist. "The Chicago Tribune explains a good deal—particularly in Chicago, which by sheer determination has made itself the most ultra-violet city in the United States. There was a time, before the fair, when Chicago was notoriously and often proudly intra-red. But a little group of public-spirited men spent their money like water and succeeded in transplanting a large quantity of culture to the lake shore. A recent Chicago novel was announced by its publisher as celebrating the arrival of Chicago as the musical capital of the United States. The note surprised readers who had found the story concerned chiefly with the lapse of a blonde woman, but the ultra-violet hypothesis explains it. Chicago has bought culture, but at a terrific price in blonde. —New York Times (independent democratic)."

Menus and Color Schemes.

In a lecture on menu making before the members of the New England Home Economics Association in Boston, the other day, a member of the staff of the New York Teachers' College pointed out to her audience that colors contribute character to a meal, and added that hues which clash should be avoided, as they mar a repast. To illustrate her point the speaker described a meal of ham and beefs as having the character of a riot. To recall characteristic combinations of food is to be reminded of the fact that color harmonies on the table are as much a matter of course. An audience of New England folk might have reminded this particular lecturer that baked beans and brown bread, inseparable combination in that land, are what Whittier might have called a symphony in brown. Gilbert once used the color of cold gray to paint an esthetic satire, but an artistic food and in its cool gray tone combined with the tint of underdone lamb a fine and artistic combination.

Dinner menus suggest a whole train of such color combinations necessary for the perfect meal. The hors d'oeuvre, with its silvery anchovy, green and olive, scarlet radishes and red and white sausage, might be considered a riotous feast. It is very subtle and appetizing. Oysters with their lemon garnish make a charming low-toned scheme of gray and yellow. A blaque of lobster stands quite by itself in its delicate pink tint. The ensuing salmon and cucumbers are the perfect combination of red and green. The solid notes of color are to be found in the golden brown and flesh white of a slice of roast turkey with its accompanying ruby cranberries. Salad repeats the pale green and yellow notes; ice cream comes in all sorts of fascinating colors, and the menu ends with the firm brown tones of the coffee and cigars.

When professional and amateur cooks who take their art seriously suddenly discover that they have been painters as well as practitioners of the culinary art they will recall the character of Mollere, who found he had been speaking prose all his life without knowing it. Let us hope this discovery will do nothing to weaken their skill as culinary colorists, but rather tend to emphasize their skill as artists and even more delectable combinations of food and color. —New York Herald (independent).



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